

## LAKE DRUMMOND

### Boundary Description

**Lake Drummond** in its entirety within the cities of Chesapeake and Suffolk, excluding any ditches and/or tributaries for a total area of approximately 5.1 square miles.

### Observations

On November 4, 2002, David C. Whitehurst as required by DEQ Exceptional Waters guidance conducted a site visit to Lake Drummond, which is contain within the cities of Chesapeake and Suffolk. Lake Drummond is entirely surrounded by the Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge and is publicly accessible by boat by way of the Feeder Ditch on the eastern side that connects the lake to the Intracoastal Waterway.

Lake Drummond is one of only two naturally occurring lakes in Virginia. It is naturally dystrophic and an integral part of a unique blackwater ecosystem. Most of the dismal swamp has been logged at one time or another previous to the creation of the wildlife refuge, thus eliminating what was one of the most extensive cypress forests on the east coast. The perimeter of the lake, however, still has a heavy growth of bald cypress trees with some found relatively far into the lake from the shoreline.

Although dissolved oxygen is low and the pH tends to be acidic, recreational fishing in the lake is popular with some anglers with white and black crappie being targeted in the spring and largemouth bass pursued throughout the year.



The Feeder Ditch  
Total length - 4 miles



The lake (and canals) is open to canoes and kayaks or motorized boats limited to ten horsepower motors. Some canoe and kayak liveries advertise "eco-tours" to Lake Drummond.



## Conclusion

After considering observations made during a visit to the site, staff has concluded that Lake Drummond satisfies all three of the eligibility criteria to be considered for designation as Exceptional Waters. Lake Drummond has an exceptional environmental setting and an exceptional aquatic community in terms of uniqueness and the lake provides for outstanding recreational opportunities.

